

REMARKS

Reference is made to the earlier Amendment after Allowance filed June 21, 2004 in response to the Notice of Drawing Inconsistency with Specification dated 15 June, 2004.

In the Specification, page 16, lines 10 and 23, it has been amended to use consistent terminology in referring to the inner tapered wall surfaces 56 and 58.

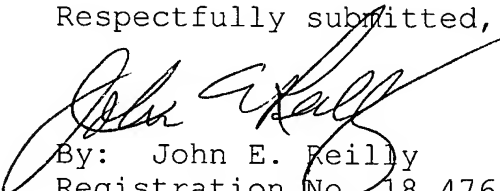
A number of typographical errors were noted in the Examiner's Amendment to the claims as indicated above; and in claim 12 it should be noted that lines 5 and 12 make reference to "external catch". Accordingly, in line 18 the term "external shoulder" should be -- external catch -- to be consistent with the previous reference to the external catch. The same is true of claims 16 and 17.

Similarly, the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance re claims 1-5, 7-13, 16-19, 22-25 should read that the prior art of record failed to teach the sleeve member as a tapered external surface terminating at an external shoulder or catch. Further, it is submitted that the prior art fails to teach the sleeve member having a wall surface which tapers from its external shoulder or catch toward its leading end and with sealing ribs along its inner wall surface so that the degree of inward compression or crimping of the sleeve is at its greatest along the thickest portion of the tapered wall section and the sealing rings

will be forced radially inwardly to a greater extent into engagement with the outer jacket of the cable at the thickest portion nearer to the shoulder than at the opposite end where the tapered wall section is much thinner (see Specification page 14, lines 16 to 24).

It is therefore believed that the Specification and claims as now presented are in condition for allowance. If any issues remain to be resolved, it is requested that the Examiner contact attorney for applicants at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that the foregoing Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to MAIL STOP: ISSUE FEE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, this 20th day of July, 2004.

